

Testimony of Zane Walker
President of the Michigan Building & Construction Trades Council
Before the House Judiciary Committee
as read by Brian Brannick
House Bill 4601
10/20/11

Just this week, I was informed about the existence of House Bill 4601 "Limitation of Successor Asbestos-Related Liability". I have been briefed as to its content and I have been made aware of the driving forces behind this legislation. I am firmly of the opinion that any proponent of this Bill is not a friend to the Michigan workers. I certainly would appreciate the opportunity to express my displeasure relative to this hostile action taken by those political forces who continue to display what one might consider criminal indifference and disregard for the health and safety and well-being of the Michigan worker. It is clear to me that this legislation is designed to hurt the ones **who built this state**. Most disappointing is the fact that I believe that this legislation was put to rest two years ago.

I truly hope and pray that our friends who do attend and oppose this legislation are able to convince all concerned to do the right thing and kill this bill and place their efforts on the real needs of the people.

Simply put, the Michigan taxpayer will have to carry the burden that this company is asking to be exempted from when these sick workers apply for medicaid to pay their medical bills. The continued relentless political blindsided effort at immunity/bail-out legislation at the expense of the Michigan worker is ludicrous. The Michigan workers who have been made a victim of corporate greed and stupidity are the same workers who built and used these products. The people who need it the most are being hurt. It is our fathers, uncles and grandfathers that are being forced to face financial instability in their golden years if this Bill is enacted. I would hope that you all would agree that the Michigan worker is not expendable. There remains an urgent and vital need to assure accountability. The purpose and intent of the law relative to successor liability is clear. The judicial system must be allowed to serve its purpose. The intent of the proponents of this legislation also seems clear. Their efforts must be halted at once.